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SENATE RESOLUTION 120  
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Bishop Byrne High School Red Knights for winning the 2001 TSSAA Division II A Football Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the state of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Bishop Byrne High School Red Knights achieved unsurpassed success during the 2001 season by winning the TSSAA Division II A Football Championship; and

WHEREAS, ranked first in the state in the preseason rankings the Red Knights opened the season in dominating fashion, defeating St. Benedict by a score of 27-0; as the season progressed, they compiled a remarkable 9-2 record and were undefeated against Division II A competitors; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2001, the Red Knights entered the Clinch Bowl Vanderbilt Stadium and proceeded to dominate Southern Baptist Educational Center from the opening whistle until the final horn to claim the State Championship; and

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WHEREAS, the Bishop Byrne squad outscored their divisional opponents by a total of 352 points to a mere 31; and

WHEREAS, the Red Knights achieved their remarkable success by utilizing an extraordinary combination of powerful offense, stifling defense, explosive special teams, and unquestionable heart; and

WHEREAS, the offense utilized an impressive array of weapons to fuel the Red Knights' overpowering offensive unit, which astonishingly scored nearly four hundred points on the season; and

WHEREAS, opposing offenses were repeatedly ground to a halt in the face of the Red Knights' formidable defense; their front seven dominated the line of scrimmage and shut down opposing running games, while the defensive backs controlled the airways and stalled any of the opposition's attempts at establishing a passing attack; and

WHEREAS, the Red Knights' special teams unit provided a significant advantage by repeatedly removing the team from poor field position and bestowing that unwelcome situation upon opposing teams and threatening to turn the tide of a game at any time; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Jack Grannan and Assistant Michael Adair, Steve Jourdan, Lynn Jourdan, Marty Kammer, and Keith Olswing laid the groundwork for the Red Knights' first championship season by sharing their substantial knowledge and love of football with the young men on the team; and

WHEREAS, among the athletes who flourished under the coaches' tutelage were Jonathan Mack, TSSAA Mr. Football Finalist, Associated Press First Team All-State Player, and Division II A Player of the Year; Ricky Dugger, Division II A Offensive Player of the Year and Clinic Bowl Most Valuable Offensive Player; and Robert Hampton, Clinic Bowl Most Valuable Defensive Player; and

WHEREAS, incredibly, fifteen other members of the team were selected for the Division II A All-Region Team; and

WHEREAS, the team's supreme success was aided by the remarkable individual performances of these talented players, and their efforts were rewarded with the highest individual honors; however, the greatest honor earned by any Red Knight was that which was earned by them all, the title of State Champions; and

WHEREAS, the football players at Bishop Byrne High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the gridiron while showing the utmost character both on and off the field; they inspired the student body and united the entire school community in completing their triumphal run through the 2001 season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship football season, but also surely bodes well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Bishop Byrne Red Knights for their success on the gridiron and for serving as examples of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we join the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Bishop Byrne High School in congratulating the Red Knight coaches and players on winning the TSSAA Division II A Football Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish them much continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.